State of California The Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Prospect Island Wildlife Habitat Restoration Project

Project Description: California Department of Water Resources (Lead State Agency) and the Army Corps of Engineers (Lead Federal Agency) propose to plan, design, and construct the restoration of wetlands on Prospect Island located in the northwestern part of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in Solano County. The island is bounded by the Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel to the west, the remnants of Little Holland Tract to the north, Miner Slough to the east, and the confluence of the ship channel and Miner Slough to the south. The restoration of wetlands on Prospect Island is designed to restore environmental resources that have been degraded by construction and operation of the ship channel and Sacramento Flood Control Project.

The Finding: This project will not have a significant negative impact on the environment.

Basis for Finding: Based on the joint Environmental Assessment and Initial Study (EA/IS) (Appendix C of the Draft Project Modification Report, October 1997), no significant impact will occur as a result of this project. The possible consequences of work described in the EA/IS have been studied with consideration given to environmental, economic, social, and engineering feasibility.

Over half of the threatened and endangered plant and animal species in the State of California depend on wetlands. The restoration of wetlands on Prospect Island would benefit many of these species of concern. Fish that may benefit include delta smelt, chinook salmon, and Sacramento splittail. Waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds, and furbearers would also benefit from the restoration of agricultural land to an open shallow water habitat.

Therefore, this Negative Declaration is filed pursuant to Section 15070 et seq. of the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act.

The public review period for this Negative Declaration and joint Environmental Assessment and Initial Study ended November 30, 1997. DWR responded to public comments and modified the EA/IS as appropriate. For further information on this proposed project, please contact DWR Katie Wadsworth, 3251 "S" Street, Sacramento, CA 95816-7017 (916/227-0180 and fax 916/227-7554). Copies of the joint EA/IS and any referenced documents are available at the above address.

Randall L. Brown, Chief
Environmental Services Office

Date 2/24/99